

ABSTRACT

The present invention is directed to methods and compositions related to $\alpha 7$ acetylcholine nicotinic receptor genes, in particular, the human $\alpha 7$ nicotinic acetylcholine receptor gene. The human $\alpha 7$ nicotinic acetylcholine receptor gene is associated with the pathophysiological aspects of the disease schizophrenia. The present invention further provides methods and compositions to screen populations for abnormal $\alpha 7$ alleles, as well as methods and compositions for development of therapeutics.